

# **St Ives Arts Club Presidents Report**

## **1st October 2022 to 31st September 2023 to 2023**

### **Summary**

The Club enjoyed a resurgence of interest in membership and demand for exhibition space.

The renovation works to the ground floor were completed on time and just slightly over budget but have produced a modern and highly functional exhibition space.

The addition of the “Westcotts Quay” door and re-designed ground floor space significantly boosted footfall and income.

The operational costs of the club significantly increased due to the expiration of beneficial fixed rate utility contracts. There were 400% increases in gas and electricity rates - the club has to pay commercial rates.

The Club appointed a part time Event Manager / House Keeper on a part-time basis ( Jo Grant ) to ensure full marketing exposure and promotion of the Club and its event programme using all social media platforms. This has been a success.

As per many organisations in the town there was little appetite for Trustee and Executive positions on the management committee.

Note : The Club maintains a full Archive of Events on the Club website dating back to 2010 and if additional detail is required , should be consulted in conjunction with this Report - which will also be posted on the website under Members Only section.

### **Exhibition Room**

The first post - refurbishment event was a successful 2 week's members exhibition from 1st April - the first of 20 weeks of exhibitions until the end of the membership year

The club hosted a retrospective of long standing member Stuart Peters work who had sadly passed away the previous year. This was a great success and Stuart would have been justifiably proud of the level of interest in his work. Thanks go to Anthony Gribbin who organised it and swapped dates with his own planned exhibition.

The club hosted an exhibition of work by MA students at Falmouth University organised by neighbour Livingstone Gallery - now closed.

The 2022 Winter Collective organised by Chris O'Reilly was a wonderful addition to the programme and proved immensely popular with visitors to the town.

The club is heavily dependent upon the income from sales commissions to cover operational costs which do produce a trading surplus and enable the club to continue its programme of renovation works.

### **Theatre/Performance Space**

The upstairs room hosted the following activities :-

- Barnoon Arts Monday drawing group
- Monday Art Group
- Wednesday Ukulele Group - AC:UC
- Wednesday Theatre Group
- Thursday U3A Art group
- Monthly Thursday Frug nights
- Friday member Coffee Mornings
- Friday Art Group
- ad hoc Yoga sessions on Fridays and Sundays
- planned live music/theatre - 20 sessions p.a.
- Most September Festival events - 28 in 22/23

There were many musical highlights during the year - wonderful performances including local artists Bailey Tomkinson and Molly Hocking.

There were 4 sold out musical performances during the Festival as well as 2 lunchtime events ( Film The Spirit of Zennor and Janet Axten talk ) but attendance was high at all but 1 event. The club hosts more events than any other venue during the September festival , delivered by a very small team of 2/3 people but assisted by another small team of enthusiastic bar/door volunteers.

The Club also hosted a number of Member only events organised by the social committee including 2 film nights , a book talk and a Burns Night event- all well attended. It is hoped to introduce new member welcome events during the next 12 months

The next phase of improvement works will be focussed on this element of the building including the stage and lighting installations. This will reduce costs and enable more events to take place.

## **Other**

The Club commissioned a revaluation of its assets by David Lay Auctioneers and the declared value was £44,900 - an increase of circa £7000 , on a like for like basis, over 5 years. The most valuable painting owned by the Club is Seascape by Julian Olsson valued at £6000.

As previously reported the Clubs historic documents are now stored at Kresen Kernow and progress has been made on reviewing the final paperwork held at the Club - post 1960 - which will also be archived and stored at KK during 2024.

The Club jointly hosted a 3rd Fund raising event for Ukraine in association with George Yates of Downalong Theatre Group which raised a further £400.

St Ives Book Seller organised 2 events to launch new publications by local artists which although poorly attended were extremely informative and resulted in additional book sales.

The Club is looking to carry out external maintenance works during the next 2 years. The timber dormer fronting Westcott's Quay is perished and during heavy rain results in leaks into the theatre space.

The hip end roof fronting Westcott's Quay is in need of replacement as there are 7 missing slates with others glued into position. The guttering and downspouts need replacing with a design more suited to a listed building... and capable of holding any slipped slates.

## **Summary**

The club enjoyed a busy year with growing demand for exhibition and performance space. Despite the increase in costs , a significant surplus is now being generated due to the investment into, and improvement of, the premises. This is expected to continue and is only possible by the dedication of a very focussed committee who take ownership , make things happen and get things done. A huge vote of thanks needs to go all involved.

The club still needs an active and supportive membership and welcomes involvement of any member who wants to help take forward the aims and ambitions of the Club.

